

VISIT...

LANZAROTE  
*Caliente*.COM

MARVEL  
COMICS

X-MEN

APR '87 108

# EXCALIBUR

It Begins  
Here!

**BATTLE OVER  
BRITAIN!**

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SAWYER  
+ SCOTT

DIRECT EDITION



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THE MUIR ISLAND FACILITY FOR GENETIC RESEARCH OFF THE NORTHERN COAST OF SCOTLAND.

MY ONE SWORD MAY BE NO MATCH FOR YOUR THREE, NIGHTCRAWLER --

-- BUT WHEN YOU MOCK ME AND MY HOMELAND --

-- YOU'LL FIND I MAKE UP IN STRENGTH WHAT I LACK IN STEEL!

AS IMMOVABLE AN OBJECT AS EVER, COLOSSUS -- NICE PARRY!

BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME AS DASHING A SWASHBUCKLER AS I, YOUR FEARLESS TEAM LEADER --

HAVE AT THEE -- YOU SIBERIAN LUMMOX!

-- YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN TO BE MORE ADVENTUROUS IN YOUR TECHNIQUE!

ESPECIALLY IF YOUR OPPONENT --

-- IS GOING TO BE MORE ADVENTUROUS --

-- IN HIS ATTACK!



TOUCHÉ,  
MEIN  
FREUND!

AHH, BUT  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO OUR  
"NO POWERS"  
AGREEMENT?

TELEPORTING  
DURING THE MATCH  
WOULD SEEM A  
FLAGRANT BREACH  
OF THOSE RULES,  
HECK WAGNER.

I  
KNOW --  
I LIED.

THE ONLY  
WAY FOR YOUR  
FENCING SKILLS  
TO IMPROVE --

-- IS BY  
CHALLENGING  
YOU TO ANTICIPATE  
YOUR OPPONENT'S  
MOVES BEFORE  
HE MAKES  
THEM.

SURELY  
YOU, OF ALL  
PEOPLE, KNOW  
TO EXPECT THE  
UNEXPECTED.

FUNNY THAT  
YOU MENTION IT,  
TOVARISCH --



-- BUT  
SO SHOULD  
YOU!

WAS  
PIT?



CERTAINLY YOU REMEMBER  
THAT UNDERESTIMATING  
YOUR OPPONENT --

-- AND  
LOWERING  
YOUR  
GUARD --



-- CAN BE  
EQUALLY  
HAZARDOUS  
TO YOUR  
HEALTH!



WHY  
IF I DIDN'T  
HAVE TO GO FIX  
THAT VERDAMMT  
CERBERO OF  
OURS --

I JUST  
MIGHT MAKE  
A SWORDSMAN  
OF YOU  
YET!

SEEMS  
LIKE THE OLD  
DAYS AT XAVIER'S  
DOES IT NOT,  
KURT?



PERHAPS --  
BUT XAVIER'S  
CEREBRO UNIT  
NEVER BROKE  
DOWN AS MUCH  
AS OURS!

AUF  
WIEDERSEHN.

ONCE KURT  
FINALLY GETS OUR  
UPGRADED MUTANT  
DETECTION SYSTEM  
ON-LINE --

-- EXCALIBUR  
WILL BE ABLE TO  
SEEK OUT AND TEACH  
FLEDGLING MUTANTS  
HOW TO CONTROL  
THEIR POWERS --

... HOW TO  
COEXIST PEACEFULLY  
WITH OUR FELLOW HUMANS  
WHO HATE AND FEAR US  
FOR THE X-FACTOR  
CHROMOSOME WHICH  
GIVES US THESE  
POWERS --

-- MUCH  
LIKE PROFESSOR  
XAVIER TAUGHT US  
WHEN WE FIRST  
BECAME HIS  
STUDENTS --

-- WHEN WE  
BECAME HIS  
X-MEN.

QUIT FOOLING  
YOURSELF, PIOTR  
NIKOLIEVITCH  
RASPUTIN --

-- IT CAN  
NEVER BE LIKE  
THE "OLD  
DAYS."

EHP  
WHO --P



IN  
THE "OLD  
DAYS" --

-- I  
WOULDN'T  
LEAVE WITHOUT  
SAYING  
A PROPER  
GOOD-BYE.

"LEAVE" P  
BUT WHY,  
AMANDA?



© AS SEEN IN X-MEN 26  
BY MATT



**M**EANWHILE, AT  
LONDON'S  
PICCADILLY CIRCUS...

... THE LIFE OF YET  
ANOTHER EXCUBITOR  
MEMBER IS ABOUT  
TO BE ALTERED.

DRASTICALLY.

REJOICE  
BRIAN BRADDOCK!  
YOU GAZE UPON  
YOUR GLORIOUS  
DESTINY!

AFTER  
CENTURIES UPON  
CENTURIES OF  
TEDIOUS  
ANTICIPATION --

-- WE,  
THE DRAGONS  
OF THE CRIMSON  
DAWN, HAVE RETURNED  
TO CONQUER OUR  
BIRTH WORLD ONCE  
MORE!

I DON'T  
CARE WHAT YOU  
WANT WITH ME, BUT  
IF YOU'VE HARMED  
MEGGAN --

-- SO  
HELP  
ME --

-- I'LL  
TEAR THE  
LOT OF YOU  
APART! --

A PROUD  
BOAST,  
MORTAL.

BUT  
NOW THAT WE  
ARE FINALLY  
FREE OF OUR  
OTHERWORLDLY  
PRISON...

NOT  
ONLY SHALL  
THE ANCIENT WAYS  
REIGN SUPREME  
OVER THIS  
REALM --

-- BUT YOU  
SHALL BE THE  
INSTRUMENT  
OF ITS

**DESTRUCTION!**





STAN  
LEE  
Presents!

# The OLD WAYS

AAARGH!

Featuring  
THE EUROPEAN  
X-MEN!

**BEN SALVADOR** **SCOTT RAAB** **SCOTT LARROCA** **KOBLISH**  
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Editor Color Scape  
**MATTIDELSON** **BOBHARRAS**  
Editor The Old Man

THAT WOMAN'S  
BILE. SOME SORT  
OF CORROSIVE  
ACID.

IF  
NOT FOR MY  
SUPERNATURAL  
RESILIENCY AS  
CAPTAIN  
BRITAIN --

-- I  
WOULD'VE  
BEEN BURNED  
TO A BLOODY  
CRISP!

SPIRAL -- THAT  
SIX-ARMED WITCH --  
WARNED THAT THE  
DRAGON'S PRESENCE  
HERE MEANT MY FAMILY  
WAS IN GREAT  
DANGER.

BUT  
HOW --  
AND WHY  
???

© LAST ISSUE  
MATT



THE  
VERY FIBER OF  
YOUR BEING IS  
**POWER!**  
AND  
IF WHAT WE  
SUSPECT IS TRUE, THEN  
YOU TOO BLEED  
**MAGIC!**

YOUR  
VEINS COURSE WITH  
**MYSTICAL ENERGY,**  
BRADDOCK.

BUT  
TO KNOW FOR  
CERTAIN WHETHER YOU  
ARE THE ONE TO USHER  
IN THE **CRIMSON**  
DAWN ---

**BARAK**  
MUST MAKE  
THAT BLOOD  
FLOW!

GAWKING IN DISBELIEF, BRIAN  
BRADDOCK CAN SCARCELY  
TWITCH AS HE WATCHES THE  
DEMONIC BEAST BEFORE HIM  
GROW TO TWICE ITS VERY  
SIZE!

BUT AS BARAK HEFTS HIS  
MYSTICAL SCIMITARS  
HIGH...

...PREPARED TO  
DELIVER A KILLING  
BLOW TO BRIAN'S  
SKULL...

**SHOOM**

... TWISCH  
HE DOES!

AND AS THE BLADES CLEAVE  
OVER TEN METERS OF SOLID  
CONCRETE AND A  
SUBTERRANEAN WATER MAIN  
AS IF THEY WERE PAPER...

**SPLOORCH**

YOU SHAME  
US WITH YOUR  
INCOMPETENCE,  
BARAK!

**GRARRRR!**

I...  
AM... NOT...  
YET... FINISHED...  
WITH... HIM,  
BARAK...  
BUT REST  
ASSURED --

-- I  
WILL KILL  
HIM!

NO,  
BARAK -- HIS  
DEATH HOLDS NO  
VALUE FOR US.

NOT  
JUST  
YET...

THEN I  
SHALL SIMPLY  
**MAIM**  
HIM... FOR  
NOW!

**SHUINK**

DO  
YOUR WORST,  
MONSTERS!

YOU'LL  
FIND CAPTAIN  
BRITAIN IS MORE THAN  
A MATCH FOR  
YOU!

TAUNT  
AWAY, OLD BOY --  
BUT YOU'RE STILL  
PINNED TO THIS WALL  
BY THESE GIANT  
SHURIKEN...

... MEGGAN'S STILL  
UNCONSCIOUS...

... AND  
THAT **LIVING  
MOUNTAIN** IS  
STILL CHARGING  
AT YOU LIKE A  
RUNAWAY TUBE  
EXPRESS!



AND  
SINCE I'M  
HIS FIRST, LAST  
AND ONLY  
STOP...

I'VE  
ONLY SECONDS  
LEFT TO TURN THIS  
HANDICAP...  
... INTO A RATHER  
UNCONVENTIONAL  
ADVANTAGE.

YOUR  
SOUL IS OURS  
BRITON! RELINQUISH  
IT NOW! AND YOU WILL  
NOT  
SUFFER...  
AS MUCH!

HOW  
KIND OF  
YOU...

MY  
TIMING MUST  
BE PERFECT  
FOR THIS TO  
WORK.

THAT'S  
IT, YOU  
BRUTE -- FULL  
STEAM AHEAD...  
RAMMING  
SPEED!

C'MON!  
FASTER --  
FASTER!

Now!



LHHHHNNN...



ONE DOWN, TWO  
TO GO.

BUT WITH MEG  
INCAPACITATED  
AND SPIRAL'S  
QUESTIONABLE  
ALLEGiance --

-- THE  
ODDS ARE  
STILL CLEARLY  
STACKED IN THE  
DRAGONS'  
FAVOR.



SOMETHING  
STRANGE IS  
GOING ON  
HERE.

SOMETHING  
I'M POSITIVE THAT  
DOUBLE-DEALING SPIRAL  
KNOWS THE TRUTH ABOUT...

THIS ONE POSSESSES  
A TRUE WARRIOR'S  
SPIRIT.

BUT  
MARTIAL SKILLS  
ARE NOT  
ALL WE SEEK  
OF HIM.

A'YIN --?

AS YOU  
COMMAND,  
MISTRESS --

-- I  
WILL MAKE HIM  
OURS.

BORN ALOFT ON A  
MYSTICAL CLOUD...

... A'YIN TAKES THE  
FIGHT -- AND OUR  
HERO -- INTO HIS  
ELEMENT!

YOU FAIL TO  
COMPREHEND THE  
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES  
LYING DORMANT  
INSIDE YOU,  
CAPTAIN.

WE  
THREE SAW  
THE POTENTIAL  
WITHIN OURSELVES  
AND SEIZED IT  
CENTURIES  
AGO --

-- AND  
NOW -- WITH  
YOUR HELP -- WE  
ARE POISED TO BE  
ARCHITECTS OF THE  
MYSTICAL RENAISSANCE  
WE HAVE TOILED SO  
LONG TO  
BUILD!

SORRY,  
SUNSHINE -- BUT  
I'M NOT PARTICULARLY  
PARTIAL TO  
"ARCHITECTURE".  
APOCALYPTIC  
OR OTHERWISE.

HOW  
TERRIBLY IRONIC  
THEN THAT ONE AS  
UNENLIGHTENED AS  
YOURSELF --

-- SHALL BE  
THE FOUNDATION  
UPON WHICH THAT  
APOCALYPSE IS  
BUILT!



© SEE SPECIALS 104 AND 105  
JAMES' LIBERATION FRONT





MMMmmmm...

DON'T  
BE SUCH A  
GRUMP,  
PETE!

I'VE  
FIXED ENOUGH  
COMPUTERS IN MY  
DAY -- YOURS'LL BE  
A CINCH!

BESIDES,  
WHY WASTE TIME  
WITH DOORS WHEN I  
CAN JUST BECOME  
INTANGIBLE --

-- PHASE  
RIGHT INTO YOUR  
ARMS --

-- AND  
LITERALLY  
SWEEP YOU  
OFF YOUR  
FEET!



YOU'RE  
NOT SCARED  
OF HEIGHTS,  
ARE YOU?



DON'T BE  
DRAFT, BUT WHAT  
IF YA LOSE YER  
CONCENTRATION?

AIN'T  
WE GONNA  
BECOME  
SOLID?



WHAT  
DO YOU MEAN  
"WE"?



WUMP



I'M  
GONNA GETCHA  
FR THIS SOMEDAY,  
Y'KNOW.

I'M  
COUNTIN'  
ON IT,  
BABE.

HRMPH.



Y'ER RWFUL  
CHIPPER  
T'DAY --  
WHAT'S THE  
SCAMP?

NO  
"SCAM"  
TODAY,  
PETE.

I WAS JUST  
THINKIN' ABOUT HOW  
THINGS ARE REALLY  
STARTING TO CHANGE  
AROUND HERE SINCE  
KURT GOT ALL  
HUMANITARIAN --

AND  
HOW MAYBE  
CHANGE WOULD BE  
A GOOD THING...  
NOT JUST FOR  
THE TEAM --

BUT  
FOR THE  
TWO OF US,  
AS WELL.

CAN YOU BE  
A BIT VAGUER,  
PLEASE?

YER NOT  
TALKIN' ABOUT  
THE "M" WORD,  
ARE YAP

DON'T  
FLATTER  
YOURSELF,  
YOU SILLY  
SOD.

I'M  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
THIS.

I MEAN,  
REALLY... EVEN  
MOIRA -- WHO HAS  
ZERO FASHION  
SENSE --

-- HAS A  
MORE DIVERSE  
WARDROBE  
THAN YOU!

WOTP YA WANT ME  
T'WRAP ME SUM IN  
SPANDEX?

I LIKE  
THESE  
SUITS!

SCAM

AND I LIKE  
YOUR "BUM" IN  
THEM, HON, BUT  
JUST LIKE THE  
OLD DAYS --

-- I'M  
FEELING  
PARTICULARLY  
STYLISH THIS  
TIME OF THE  
YEAR --

-- AND  
THAT SPELLS  
T.R.O.U.B.L.E FOR  
THE FASHIONABLY-  
CHALLENGED!

SLAP





POOR PETE.  
HE HAS NO IDEA  
WHAT'S IN STORE  
FOR HIM...  
GIGGLE!

HEY, THERE'S  
RAHNE SINCLAIR AND  
DOUGLOCK...

BETCHA  
THEY'RE TALKING  
ABOUT MOIRA  
AGAIN.

PERHAPS NOW  
ISN'T THE BEST  
TIME TO DISTURB  
DR. MACTAGGERT,  
WOLFSBANE.

WHAT'D  
I TELL  
YAP



THERE'S NEVER  
A GOOD TIME TAE  
DISTURB HER,  
DOUGIE!

ALL SHE  
EVER DOES IS  
WORK... WORK...  
**WORK!**

SHE'S  
ILL --  
SHE NEEDS  
HER REST



YOU KNOW  
MOIRA'S TOO  
MUCH OF A TYPE-A  
PERSONALITY TO  
REST UNTIL SHE'S  
FOUND A CURE FOR  
THE LEGACY VIRUS.  
THAT'S KILLING  
MUTANTS,  
RAHNE.

BUT  
IT'S KILLIN'  
HER, TOO --  
AN' SHE'S  
HUMAN!



I JUST FEEL SO  
POWERLESS NAE  
BEIN' ABLE TAE  
HELP HER...

Och,  
MAYBE THIS  
LITTLE TRIP AWAY  
FROM THE ISLAND'LL  
AT LEAST HELP ME.



YEAH --  
SOME TIME  
AWAY WILL DO  
YOU A WORLD OF GOOD!



DON'T WORRY  
THOUGH -- I'LL  
KEEP A CLOSE  
EYE ON MOIRA  
WHILE YOU'RE  
GONE.

THANKS,  
DOUGIE. IT  
REALLY MEANS  
A LOT TAE  
ME.

HEY, AS YOU  
NON-TECHNO-  
ORGANIC TYPES  
SAY... "NO  
PROB, DUDE!"



RAHNE'S CONCERN  
FOR HER LEGAL  
GUARDIAN IS NOT  
UNJUSTIFIED.

BEHIND CLOSED  
DOORS, THE GOOD  
DOCTOR HAS BEEN  
NOTICERBLY  
PREOCCUPIED WITH  
HER OWN MORTALITY  
OF LATE.

I FEAR HER  
CONDITION MAY  
SOON TAKE A  
TURN FOR THE  
WORSE.

**M**INUTES LATER... AFTER  
A HYPERSONIC RIDE  
TO DUBLIN, IRELAND...

THAT  
WEE DOUGLOCK  
IS SUCH A NICE  
LADDIE.

IT  
MUST BE SO  
HARD F'R HIM HAVIN'  
ALL THOSE HUMAN  
THOUGHTS AN'  
FEELINGS...

-- BUT  
TAE HAVE THE  
LOOK OF A  
MACHINE LIKE  
HE DOES...?

IT'S  
A SIN ANYONE  
SHOULD HAVE TAE  
SUFFER LIKE  
THAT.

HE  
CAN NE'ER  
EVEN GO OUT  
IN PUBLIC AS  
HIMSELF --

-- AT LEAST,  
NOT WITHOUT AN  
IMAGE INDUCER,  
THAT IS.

GETCHER  
DAILY EDITIONS  
HERE! READ ALL  
ABOUT IT!

"BRITISH  
GOV'T RE THINKS  
MUTANT POLICIES  
AFTER LONDON  
BLAZE!"

"PARLIAMENT  
ASSUMES HARDLINE  
TOWARDS  
EXCALIBUR!"

HEAR THAT,  
RAHNE?

IF  
EXCALIBUR  
CONTINUES TO  
GET THAT KIND  
OF P.R. --

-- NONE  
OF US MAY  
BE ABLE TO  
GO OUT IN  
PUBLIC!

D'YE  
THINK THEY'RE  
GONNA ASK US  
TAE LEAVE THE  
COUNTRY?

NOW,  
WHY WOULD  
THEY GO AND DO  
A THING LIKE  
THAT?

I DUNNO --  
THINGS JUST SEEM  
SO DIFFERENT SINCE  
ONSLAUGHT.

WHAT  
WITH PEOPLE  
BLAMIN' THE X-MEN  
F'R THE DEATH O'  
ALL THOSE  
HEROES.

IT FEELS  
LIKE THE WATER'S  
RUSHIN' AGAINST  
THE DAM -- AND  
IT'S WAITIN' TAE  
BURST...

OR...  
IT COULD  
JUST BE THE  
WATER AND  
SHAMPOO IN  
YOUR HYPER-  
SENSITIVE  
EARS.

I KNOW  
IT'S TOUGH,  
BUT LET'S TRY TO  
ENJOY THIS,  
"KAY?"

I  
GUESS SO...  
I MEAN, HOW OFTEN  
DO YE GET A HAIRCUT  
FROM THE MOLLY  
FITZGERALD --

-- THE "MOST  
SOUGHT-AFTER  
HAIRDRESSER IN ALL  
O' EUROPE" --



THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
LASSIES!

AIN'T  
A SINGLE  
HEAD O'HAIR I  
COULDN'T MAKE  
INTO A WORK  
O' ART!

'COURSE  
THAT WAS BEFORE  
THE BLOODY ACCIDENT  
THAT SHOT ME SUPERHERO  
CAREER TIGHT  
HEAVEN --

NOW  
WHO'S READY  
T'BECOME A  
BONNY  
GODDESS?

ARE  
YOU SURE  
THIS IS SUCH  
A GOOD  
IDEA?

WHAT  
ON EARTH  
HAPPENED  
T'YEP

I WISH IT WAS A  
LOOOONG STORY,  
GIRLS --

BUT  
ANYWAY --  
WHAT'S ON  
THE MENU  
F' YE  
T'DAY?

CHANGE.

-- BUT  
LET'S JUST SAY ME  
RISK LUCK RAN OUT  
WHEN I SLIPPED IN THE  
LOO THE OTHER DAY...

© CAN YOU GUESS WHO  
OUR FAVORITE HAIR IS?  
SEE LETTERS PAGE FOR  
DETAILS. PAINT

LONDON.

OHh...  
MY ACHING  
HEAD.

LAST  
THING I  
REMEMBER, BRIAN  
AND I WERE IN  
THAT JEWELRY  
STORE...

...HE  
WAS DOWN  
ON ONE KNEE  
WITH AN ABSOLUTELY  
GORGEOUS  
DIAMOND  
RING...

...AND  
WE WERE  
TO BE  
WED. ®

SHRRRL...  
SHRRRL...  
SHRRRL...

NOW,  
I'M FACE  
DOWN IN THE  
GUTTER, BRIAN'S  
NOWHERE IN  
SIGHT...

AND  
THERE'S A GIANT  
BRUTE LYING IN A  
PILE OF RUBBISH  
NEXT TO  
ME!

Ohh...  
MY ACHING  
HEAD.

HELLO?  
WHO'S  
THERE?

Hmmmm...  
NOBODY.

THAT WAS  
PECULIAR.

"HILE THE ELEMENTAL  
MUTANT CALLED MEGGAN  
GETS HER BEARINGS ON THE  
GROUND...

...HER BELOVED  
BATTLES FOR HIS  
LIFE IN THE AIR!

YOU  
FIGHT WELL,  
BRITON --  
-- BUT YOU  
CANNOT DEFEAT  
US!

CAN'T  
BLAME A CHAP  
FOR TRYING, CAN  
YOU?

AS  
YOU WISH --  
BUT KNOW THAT  
YOU CAN NEVER  
ESCAPE!

WHY?  
WHAT DO  
YOU WANT  
FROM  
ME?  
YOU'RE  
ALL CLEARLY  
BEINGS OF POWER  
YOURSELF!  
HOW  
MUCH MORE  
DO YOU  
NEED?

AS  
MUCH AS IT  
TAKES TO LOOSE  
THE TIDE OF  
CRIMSON.

NOW,  
CAPTAIN BRITAIN --  
SHOW ME YOUR  
STRENGTH!

BY  
THE DAWN --  
HIS POWER IS  
STAGGERING!

CAN'T  
SUSTAIN LINK!  
MUST --  
RELEASE!

YEEARGH!

AND AS THE DRAGON KNOWN  
AS RYIN REELS FROM THE  
MYSTIC FEEDBACK OF A POWER  
FAR GREATER THAN HIS OWN...

EASY, BRIAN --  
IT'S MEGGAN!  
I'VE GOT  
YOU!  
OH,  
DARLING --  
WHAT ARE THESE  
BEASTS DOING  
TO YOU?

I AM NOT  
LEAVING YOU TO  
FIGHT THESE NASTY  
THINGS ALONE,  
BRIAN!  
DON'T  
WORRY, LOVE.  
AS LONG AS WE'RE  
TOGETHER...



"... WE CAN  
STOP ANYONE!"

THE  
ELEMENTAL WAS  
NOT SUPPOSED TO  
RECOVER SO  
QUICKLY.

-- AND  
THAT'S  
SOMETHING  
I CANNOT  
HAVE.

UNNNH...

... YOU'VE  
GOT TO... GET  
AWAY FROM HERE...  
AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE!

GET  
BACK TO... MUIR  
ISLAND. RILLY  
EXCALIBUR...



HER  
PRESENCE  
COULD VERY WELL  
STEM THE TIDE IN  
BRADDOCK'S  
FAVOR --



I'D  
BEST MAKE  
GOOD MY  
ESCAPE...

TSK,  
TSK, TIME-  
DANCER --



-- YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE!

RELEASE ME, DEMON --

-- I HAVE FULFILLED MY END OF THE BARGAIN!

YES, YOU HAVE MADE GOOD ON YOUR PROMISE TO DELIVER US TO THE POWER WE SEEK.

NOW, YOU MUST COMPLETE YOUR OTHER OBLIGATION TO SHOW US THE WAY TO HARNESS THAT POWER!



VERY WELL, THEN -- BUT THIS SATISFIES ONLY HALF OF OUR AGREEMENT...

... YOU MUST STILL UPHOLD YOUR END.

FEAR NOT, SPIRAL -- YOU NOW WEAR THE MARK OF THE CRIMSON DAWN.

THIS ARE WE ALL ETERNALLY OBLIGED AND BOUND TO ONE ANOTHER. YOU TO ME...



...MYSELF TO BARAK...



...BARAK TO AYIN. AND SOON...

FZZASH



...WE ALL TO BRIAN BRADDOCK!

BRIAN? BRIAN!

YOU --P  
DON'T KNOW  
YOURP

IF  
YOU'RE IN LEAGUE  
WITH THOSE  
CREATURES...

MEP  
WITH THEM  
OF COURSE  
NOT!

IF YOU'LL LET  
ME, I CAN HELP  
LIBERATE YOUR LOVE  
FROM THOSE  
"CREATURES".

BUT  
WE ARE OUT-  
NUMBERED. WE NEED  
ASSISTANCE...

YES...

... EXCALIBUR...

THEN  
WE SHOULD  
RETURN TO MUIR  
ISLAND!

EXCALIBUR  
WILL HELP US  
RESCUE  
BRIAN!

Next:

THE BATTLE FOR  
**BRITAIN**  
CONTINUES!



STROKES

**H**ill Just a quick reminder to you all that you can now send us your letters via email! All you've got to do is write your letter, include your name, address and email address (which we'll withhold by request), and mark your letter "okay to print." If it ain't marked, we can't print it! Once you've done that, send your letter to: **MARVELMAIL@AOL.COM**, directed to either **EXCALIBUR** or **SWORDSTROKES**. We're already doing this in **DEADPOOL** and we want to start the trend here as well!

So, like, did you like our little guest-hero this issue? If you think you know who the mystery lady is, send us a line. We'll pick two winners, one for regular mail one for email. Whoever has the earliest postmark (via mail) or the earliest date and time (via email) will win a copy of the issue, autographed by none other than our marvelous creative team! So start your guessing now!



Dear **Swordstrokes**,

In all the years I've been collecting X-Men comics, I have never written a letter of discontent until now. Please allow me to vent a bit.

I'm having a hard time with some of the characters running around in **EXCALIBUR**. I read this comic for storylines involving my favorite ex-X-Men, **Nightcrawler**, **Shadowcat**, and **Colossus**. Of course, **Lockheed**, **Megan**, **Brian Braddock**, **Pete Wisdom**, and **Rahne** are also fabulously written. I guess it is just the humans I have a problem with. **Dr. MacTaggart** is the only human character that is remotely interesting, and that is due not just to the fact of her current predicament, but that she actually does something for the team structure of **Excalibur**. I don't get this from **Rory Campbell**, who is not very enthralling without **Rachel Summers**. His character is now so volatile as to be repulsive.

What about this whole **Amanda Sefton** thing? She kills

**Gravemoss** and has no remorse. She holds back on telling anyone that her mother, a very powerful sorceress, has taken the **Soulsword**. She sees in the timestream that **Rory Campbell** could become **Ahab**, yet risks the safety of her friends by not mentioning it. She could help **Cambell** avoid his possible future if she wanted to but obviously, she isn't interested. With all the half-truths and all the holding back of information, who can trust her? Her character is written so that she appears dishonest and foolish, rather than strong and intelligent. (There is an easy-way to avoid this problem--get some female writers.)

I now understand that **Amanda** will be given more of a role in **Excalibur**. I truly hope you guys don't have **Nightcrawler** and **Amanda** getting married. This would take away **Nightcrawler's** swashbuckling, suave lady's man character, a vital part of his personality. And one that has been underplayed for far too long. Haven't you guys made him sadder enough? What ever happened to the daring, stunt-loving, "two people are in the audience" guy that **Kurt** has been all his life? **Leopards** can't change their spots, no matter how hard they try.

Okay, I feel better now.

Thanks, guys.

Di Breen

(Address withheld by request)

So you've got some concerns about members of our cast, eh? **DI!** Allow us to assuage your fears as best we can! **Rory Campbell** has indeed become the near-ultimate party-pooper since **Rachel** left. As evidenced by his email to **Molra** last month, it would appear that **Rory** is out of the picture for the time being. Of course, appearances can be deceiving... In fact, **Rory** just may be appearing in a certain other X-book before too long!

As for the once-charming and palatable **Amanda Sefton**; you're right! She just hasn't been the same lately, as we saw in her less than heartfelt exit this issue. Hmmmm. **Amanda** may have left, but where she goes, can **Nightcrawler** be far to follow?

And speaking of our favorite blue person (besides the **Beast**, that is), he's gained a new

outlook on life and his role as leader of **Excalibur** in the wake of **Xavier's** fall (when he was overtaken by **Onslaught**, 'natch'). He's been showing more of a smile lately, and that swashbuckling element that made him so much fun is returning. (Now if he could just get that **Cerebro**-thingie to run properly, he'd really be smiling!)

Dear Gentlemen,

I've meant to write for some time, but issue #104 finally made me do it. As a 13-year-old follower of **Kurt**, **Kitty**, and **Piotr**, I am pleased as punch to see all aspects--pencils, inks, plot and script--finally starting to come together. What I saw in this issue and motivated me to write were the seeds of change that are beginning to show. Finally, the depth of all the **Excalibur** characters is emerging. The well-planned plot twists are making their way to the fore and the artwork! I was astonished at the sight of **Colossus** standing in all his glory on the rocks of a stormy sea. You have done the character great justice.

I must comment, also, that so many loyal fans have waited so long to see both **Kitty** and **Colossus** happy--it still seems they are not. If they are to be happy with others, then who are we to argue? But it must be hard for someone who has followed their story from the beginning. It seems that they are, in some way, destined to be together. Even back in their days with the **X-MEN**, all visions of the future have shown them as a couple. Perhaps life is waiting for **Kitty** to mature a bit more and, with your help, she is growing just beautifully. All things in their own time.

Laurie Alexander

(Address withheld by request)

So, you think **Kitty** and **Colossus** are going to get back together someday, do you, **Laurie**? We'll see. As someone great once said, "the future is not written in stone" (obviously they weren't that great if we can't remember their name!). Future visions or no, anything can and will happen. Besides, **Kitty** and **Pete** look so darn cute together. Now if only **Piotr** could find a little happiness. Oh, well.

Dear **Swordstrokes**,

I have just read #104 and I have to say that it is good to see **Wolfsbane** up and about, not just blending into the background somewhere. I was

EDITOR

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IDELSON

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curious as to her status on the team. Since Colossus joined, it seemed to have turned into "the adventures of Nightcrawler, Colossus, Shadowcat, and Pete Wisdom." Anyway, I'm glad to see her fully cured of the Genosha Bonding, no longer a prisoner of her own mind and body. Wolfsbane has been my favorite character since I first saw her in the NEW MUTANTS graphic novel and series, and I have followed her adventures ever since. I've watched Rahne grow from a shy, uneasy lass afraid to use her powers into a healthy, confident, strong (and not to mention cute) woman-wolf. I have a feeling that she is going to need that strength to help her "mum," Moira cope with the Legacy Virus. No words have really been exchanged since her arrival on Muir Island or about Onslaught/Prof. X. He was Rahne's guardian during her time in the early New Mutants. Well, I guess it's been awhile.

I was also wondering, can Wolfsbane still turn into her full wolf form and how about seeing her in human form as well. I hope to continue seeing her grow in the pages of EXCALIBUR along with her teammates. They are a formidable group to continue the dream.

Brian J. Alter  
Maywood, NJ

Ahhhhh. It's nice to see some interest in Rahne's well-being, Brian! She hasn't gotten much press lately, though

that's about to change. Moira's health appears to have taken a turn for the worse as of late (see issue #106 if you don't believe us), and she is definitely going to need Rahne's strength to keep going. Too bad that Rahne will be far, far away when Moira finds that—but that would be telling.

But no matter where in the world Rahne is at any given moment, she can indeed transform herself into a human half-wolf, and bona-fide, extra-strength, full wolf when she deems it necessary. Talk about versatile!

#### Dear EXCALIBUR:

Did I enjoy this issue of EXCALIBUR #105—Hard Truths? You bet I did. This story really faces the issue of the death of a loved one, and how hard it is for people to accept it. After someone dies, we see that person in many other people and what Kitty was going through is something we have all gone through when faced with the death of someone close to us. I was finally relieved when Kitty accepted the fact that Doug was gone and now she is ready to move forward with Douglock. Excellent ending. The story was moving and it touched me in many parts. Keith Giffen moved the reader with this story. Good work, Keith! Douglock was getting a bit irate with everyone calling him Doug and I can see his point of view. Douglock is a very unique and original character and

I want to see more of him in future issues.

The mentioning of "luck to us all" and then the laughable comeback at the name of "mutant Pollyanna" gave me a good belly laugh. The crew at Marvel are marvelous in inserting humor in their stories, and I wasn't disappointed with EXCALIBUR. I'm a little nervous with this story, because I wonder just how devastating it would be if the Xavier Protocols fell into the M.L.F.'s hands. You pointed out a good terrorist act, when mentioning that Brian and Meggan were being used as living shields. This trick is used by many terrorists, a horrible maneuver used by the evil.

A cordial bow to Bryan Hitch on pencils and Paul Neary w/Hitch and Riggs on inks. The comic stood out in exquisite beauty.

Now before I shut down my force field, I was taken aback by how blunt Douglock was when he said he doesn't like sausage because he isn't Doug! Talk about being irate. He should be a little more sensitive to one's feelings. The stories are just getting better and better at Marvel! Catch you on the rebound!!

Paul Dale Roberts  
Sacramento, CA  
probert2@rnb.dhs.cahwnet.gov

Hard Truths seemed to bring out a great deal of emotion in many people, Paul, as it should. Glad you were among those who found this a satisfying resolution to Kitty's feelings. Perhaps Douglock was a bit harsh in the diner scene. Then again, he had tried everything within his power up to that point to make Kitty understand the reality of the situation, to no avail. Finally, he concluded that bluntness might be the best approach. As we saw in the end, though, Kitty ultimately had to find her own path to the truth.

As for the M.L.F., they are indeed pretty evil when they need to be. Look for more of them in upcoming issues of X-FORCE.



## NEXT MONTH

THE DRAGONS OF THE  
CRIMSON DAMN  
HAVE BRAITAIN  
AND EXCALIBUR  
WANTS HIM BACK!

PROBLEM IS,  
THEY NEED  
SPIRAL'S HELP  
TO FIND HIM!  
YOU THOUGHT THINGS  
WERE BAD BEFORE?  
THEN LOOK OUT. 'CAUSE  
THEY'RE  
ABOUT TO GET  
A WHOLE  
LOT WORSE!